

To whom it may concern:

I am very strongly opposed to the proposed 10 year extension of the Northern Territory Intervention.

Currently I am an allied health worker for the NSW Ministry of Health. The combination of my experience in the Health Industry and my masters in Counselling and experience working with Centrelink's clients has provided many opportunities to work with Indigenous Australians clients. Initially most of my Aboriginal Clients presented as vulnerable and with strong barriers which stood in their way of reaching their desired potential - a life filled with meaning including working and socially and positive relationship with their families and communities. My sessions with clients provided skills, education and most importantly a mandate that they were the creators of their destiny and responsible for implementing a plan to insure the quality of their life. This process empowered my aboriginal clients and provided them with resilience to tackle hard issues. Each attempt to solve a problem on their own, whether successful or not, resulted in their gaining strength and confidence.

The majority of my aboriginal clients made great improvements in their lives and continue to do so.

I oppose the intervention as it disempowers indigenous australians. The Intervention has been tried, yet no significant changes have occurred. What is the motivation behind renewing an unsuccessful practice for another ten years. If the Intervention had worked, it would be time for it to finish. The Intervention has not worked, so there is no justification to continuing it. These are the two possible scenarios and both say NO TO A 10 YEAR EXTENSION TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION.

I am away overseas and do not have time to submit a detailed account of my opposition to the ten year extension of the Northern Territory Intervention. Unfortunately I have just found out about this proposal and I will not land back in Australia until February 1st. However I write this short email to register my strong opposition to the 10 year extension.

Mary Ashton